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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 4 DAMASCUS 3699

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, ELAB, ECON, SY
SUBJECT: SARG PREPARES POLITICAL RESPONSE TO WORSENING ECONOMIC CRISI
S

1. SUMMARY: THE AL-ASAD REGIME RECENTLY HAS RECEIVED INDICATIONS
OF DIMINISHING PUBLIC TOLERANCE FOR SYRIA'S ECONOMIC
DIFFICULTIES AND PERCEIVED WIDESPREAD OFFICIAL CORRUPTION.
ECONOMIC PALLIATIVES HAVE FAILED TO RESOLVE THESE
DIFFICULTIES, AND CONSEQUENTLY SARG HAS BEGUN TO FORUMLATE
POLITICAL RESPONSE TO ECONOMIC CRISIS IN ORDER TO BUY TIME.
OFFICIAL CONCERN MOTIVATED BY THREATS OF TEACHER STRIKE,
LABOR UNREST, RESIGNATIONS OF SOME LABOR LEADERS, SPREADING
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PUBLIC DISCONTENT WITH RISING PRICES AND PUBLIC RESENTMENT
AT EXTENT OF CORRUPTION AROUSED BY STORIES CURRENTLY MAKING
THE ROUNDS. PRIVATE BUSINESSMEN PROFESS CONFIDENCE
THAT SOME OF THE TRADITIONAL BAATH SOCIALIST CONTROLS ON
PRIVATE ENTERPRISE WILL BE LIFTED, BUT AL-ASSAD HAS
NOT YET TIPPED HIS HAND. INSTEAD, HE HAS APPARENTLY ACCEPTED
PRIMIN KHULAYFAWT'S RESIGNATION, AND IS SCANNING FIELD FOR

SUITABLE CANDIDATE TO ASSUME TASK OF MANAGING SARG BUREAUCRACY. TO DEFLECT CRITICISM BY SOME BAATH PARTY AND MILITARY LEADERS THAT AL-ASSAD'S FRIENDS IN THE WEST HAVE LET HIM DOWN NOW THAT HE CONFRONTS ECONOMIC TROUBLES, HE IS SENDING DELEGATION HEADED BY FONMIN KHADDAM TO ITALY AND FRANCE TO SEEK INCREASED EUROPEAN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. WE CONCLUDE THAT REGIME CURRENTLY IN MIDST OF EFFORTS TO SURMOUNT THIRD TEST IT HAS CONFRONTED IN PAST YEAR-AND-ONE-HALF. THROUGH SKILLFUL POLITICAL MANEUVERING AL-ASSAD HAS SO FAR MANAGED TO CONTAIN, THOUGH NOT SOLVE, CRISIS AFFECTING LEBANON AND HIS INTERNAL SECURITY. UNABLE TO RESOLVE ECONOMIC STRAINS, HE IS EXPERIMENTING TO FORMULATE MOST EFFECTIVE STRATEGY TO CONTAIN ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. THIS THIRD TEST WILL COMPLICATE AL-ASSAD'S ABILITY TO MAINTAIN INTERNAL STABILITY AND HE IS LIKELY TO RENEW EFFORTS TO SEEK HELP FROM BOTH WEST AND OIL-PRODUCING STATES. END SUMMARY.

2. SARG HAS RECENTLY RECEIVED SEVERAL INDICATIONS OF DIMINISHING PUBLIC TOLERANCE FOR SYRIAN ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES AND SEEMINGLY UNCHECKED OFFICIAL CORRUPTION. REGIME HAS SOUGHT WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT SUCCESS TO ALLEVIATE PROBLEMS BY ECONOMIC PALLIATIVES BUT AS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY NOTED (DAMASCUS NOTAL 2889), IT HAS BEEN HAMPERED BY INABILITY TO EXTRICATE CONTROL OF THE ECONOMY FROM PARTY AND BUREAUCRATIC CONTROLS; BUT ITS FEARS OF INCREASED UNREST IF SUBSIDIES ON STAPLES ARE CUTBACK TOO QUICKLY; BY ITS ONGOING INVOLVEMENT IN LEBANON; AND BY LACK OF SAUDI FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. CONSEQUENTLY, SARG HAS BEGUN TO
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FORMULATE A POLITICAL RESPONSE TO ITS ECONOMIC CRISIS THAT IT HOPES WILL BUY IT SUFFICIENT TIME TO GATHER RESOURCES AND DECIDE ON DIRECTION OF FUTURE ECONOMIC POLICY.

3. INDICATIONS OF DISCONTENT.
ECONOMIC PRESSURES HAVE BEEN ACCUMULATING IN SYRIA FOR PAST FEW YEARS, BUT IN RECENT SEVERAL WEEKS WE HAVE SEEN EVIDENCE THAT SOME SYRIANS ARE BEGINNING TO TRANSLATE THEIR GRIEVANCES INTO POLITICAL ACTION. DAMASCUS 2573 NOTAL REPORTED THAT TEACHER'S SYNDICATE WAS PRESSING SARG FOR INCREASE IN PAY AND THAT HEAD OF SYNDICATE HAD INFORMED BAATH PARTY COMMAND THAT HE COULD NO LONGER BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTIONS OF MEMBERS OF HIS SYNDICATE. HOMS BRANCH OF SYNDICATE HAD REPORTEDLY CABLED SARG WITH THREAT TO STRIKE UNLESS ITS WAGE DEMANDS WERE MET. DAMASCUS 3408 NOTAL REPORTED THAT WORKERS IN LARGE SYRIAN FACTORY LOCATED IN DAMASCUS SUBURB HAD PETITIONED GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF LABOR UNIONS (CCLU) PRES. MAHMUD HADID COMPLAINING ABOUT CORRUPTION AND LACK OF OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO WORKERS CONCERNS.

ACCORDING TO SOURCE OF THIS REPORT, PETITION ASSERTED THIS WAS INTOLERABLE ON PART OF SOCIALIST REGIME COMMITTED TO IMPROVING CONDITIONS OF WORKERS. WE WERE TOLD THAT PETITION WAS BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF BAATH PARTY COMMAND AND OF PRES. AL-ASSAD HIMSELF, WHO SOUGHT TO UNCOVER WHO WAS BEHIND THIS ORGANIZED DISSIDENCE. MORE RECENTLY WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY RELIABLE SOURCE THAT LEADERS OF DAMASCUS BRANCH GOVERNMENT WORKERS SYNDICATE SUBMITTED JOINT LETTER OF RESIGNATION TWO WEEKS AGO TO GCLU PRES. WITH COPY FORWARDED TO PRIMIN KHULAYFAWI.

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SOURCE SAID LETTER REFERRED TO ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES AND EXTENT OF CORRUPTION IN SYRIA AND CONCLUDED THAT LEADERSHIP COULD NO LONGER BE RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IN LABOR FIELD. PRIMIN RESPONDED IMMEDIATELY BY INVITING THEM TO MEET JUNE 4 AND DISCUSS GRIEVANCES. MEETING GREW INTO CONFRONTATION, FOR SYNDICATE COMMAND BROUGHT ALONG PARTY AND WORKER REPRESENTATIVES OF FACTORIES IN DAMASCUS REGION AND COMPAND DIRECTORS (ABOUT SIXTY IN ALL)

WHILE KHULAYFAWI HAD WITH HIM DEPPRIMINS SHAYYA AND YUSUFI,
MINISTERS OF SUPPLY, HEALTH AND ELECTRICITY, GCLU PRES.
HADID AND EXECUTIVE BUREAU, HEAD OF DAMASCUS BAATH PARTY
BRANCH AND OTHER OFFICLAS.

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4. OUR SOURCE REPORTED THAT SESSION LASTED FOR FIVE
HOURS AND WAS EXTREMELY STORMY, WITH PRIMIN THREATENING
TO HALF MEETING ON NUMBER OF OCCASIONS AND HIS AUDIENCE
RETORTING THAT IT WAS HE, NOT THEY, WHO HAD REQUESTED
SESSION IN FIRST PLACE. SYNDICATE LEADERS CHARGED THAT
PRICES OF NEARLY EVERYTHING WERE RISING IN UNCONTROLLED
MANNER, EVEN TEA. KHULAYFAWI HEATEDLY DENIED THAT PRICE OF
REA HAD RISEN, AND TURNED TO SYPLY MIN FOR CONFIRMATION;
SUPPLY MIN INFORMED HIM THAT PRICE HAD GONE UP. KHULAYFAWI,
IN OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO CORRUPTION, WAS ASKED HOW SOME
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WERE ABLE TO AFFORD RESIDENCES VALUED
AT SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND SYRIAN POUNDS WHEN THEIR
SALARIES WERE LISTED AT FEW HUNDRED POUNDS PER MONTH. OUR SOURCE
SAID HIGH POINT OF MEETING CAME WHEN VETERAN BAATHIST
ABD AL-QADIR QADDURA ROSE TO DELIVER IMPASSIONED ATTACK
AGAINST CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS. QADDURA SAID HE HAD BEEN
BAATHIS SINCE 1952, HAD SEEN THE INSIDE OF MANY PRISONS
AND HAD BEEN "READY TO DIE" TO HELP ACHIEVE A BETTER
SOCIETY. HOWEVER, CURRENT REGIME HAD ALLOWED CORRUPTION
AND B8?346 59 *)9748 #, ECONOMY TO DETERIORATE AND
INTERNAL CHAOS TO CONTINUE. HE CONCLUDED THAT THIS HAD
BECOME "WORST REGIME SINCE GEUDAL ERA." (NOTE: PRESS
REPORTED ON INSIDE PAGE ONLY THAT PRIMIN HAD HELD MEETING WITH
SYNDICATE LEADERS TO DISCUSS LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS
OF WORKING CLASS, WAGES, PRICES AND GOVT. PLANS TO COPE
WITH THESE ISSUES.)

5. CORRUPTION.

IT IS NOT CLEAR TO US THAT EXTENT OF CORRUPTION HAS
DRAMATICALLY INCREASED IN PAST FEW MONTHS, BUT IT DOES
APPEAR THAT PUBLIC ATTENTION HAS FOCUSED ON THE ISSUE AND
THAT MANY SYRIANS HOLD REGIME ACCOUNTABLE FOR PERMITTING
IT TO CONTINUE RELATIVELY UNCHECKED. (PARTY IS ONE OF
PRINCIPAL BENEFICIARIES OF CORRUPTION AND MAY BE ATTEMPTING
DEFLECT CRITICISM TO GOVERNMENT BY TAKING INITIATIVE IN THIS
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MATTER.) STORY WE HAVE HEARD ABOUT RECENT INCIDENT IN TARTUS

ILLUSTRATES BLATANT DISREGARD FOR PUBLIC SENSITIVITIES BY OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN THE VERY. ACCORDING TO RELIABLE SOURCE, WHO OBTAINED INFORMATION FROM OFFICER IN MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, THIEVES HAVE LOOTED MANY STORAGE WAREHOUSES AT TARTUS PORT. AUTHORITIES BELIEVE TOP OFFICIALS IN TARTUS ARE INVOLVED, AND TARTUS GOVERNOR AND HEAD OF LOCAL BRANCH OF BAAATH PARTY HAVE BEEN PLACED UNDER HOUSE ARREST. GOVERNOR HAS ALREADY BEEN REPLACED.

6. FROM ANOTHER SOURCE WE HEARD OF SECOND STORY THAT SALIM MARUF, ALLEGEDLY A RELATIVE OF PRES. AL-ASSAD, WAS INVOLVED IN OPERATION WHEREBY HE AND COOPERATIVE OFFICIALS STOLE OVER PERIOD OF TIME SEVERAL MILLION POUNDS FROM HOMS REFINERY REVENUES. ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE, HEAD OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION ISSUED WARRANT OF ARREST FOR MARUF, BUT LATTER MANAGED TO ESCAPE AND SEEK REFUGE AT HOUSE OF GHAZI KANAAN, DIRECTOR OF SECURITY FOR HOMS. SOURCE THEN ASKED RHETORICALLY HOW CORRUPTION COULD BE ENDED WHEN THIEVES WERE PROTECTED BY RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES.

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7. THERE ARE MANY STORIES DEPICTING THE INTERNAL FLOUNDERING OF THE BAATHI BUREAUCRATIC-SYNDICALIST COMPLEX WHICH HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR MUCH OF THE PRESENT FINANCIAL CRISIS AND WHOSE ONLY PRESCRIPTION IS MORE OF THE SAME. TO CITE ONE RECENT EXAMPLE; AS A RESULT OF THE CONFERENCE DESCRIBED ABOVE, PRIMIN CANCELLED AN EXEMPTION GRANTED TO THE DREIKICHE BOTTLED WATER COMPANY RELIEVING TRUCKS SHIPPING BOTTLED WATER ON A CONTRACT TO SAUDI ARABIA FROM BEING CONTROLLED BY MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT ALLOCATION PROCEDURES. THE SAUDIS PROMPTLY CANCELLED THE CONTRACT, WORTH \$3.5 MILLION AND THE ARMY, WHICH OWNS THE DREIKICHE PLANT IS FURIOUS. UNDER CURRENT PRACTICE, THE PARTY IMPOSES QUOTAS ON FACTORIES TO HIRE MORE EMPLOYEES AND LABOR LAW FORBIDS DISMISSAL OF EVEN CONFIDENTIAL

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THE INCOMPETENT. FACTORY MANAGERS ATTEMPT TO COPE WITH THE SUPERFLUOUS EMPLOYEES (SOMETIMES AMOUNTING TO 75 PERCENT OF THE WORKFORCE) BY SHUNTING THEM TO NONPRODUCTIVE JOBS AT BASE SALARIES WHILE REWARDING CORE PRODUCTION WORKERS THROUGH INCENTIVES, BONUSES, AND UNOFFICIAL REIMBURSEMENT. THE PRIVATE SECTOR HAS ITS OWN VIEW OF THE ECONOMY AND ITS SOLUTIONS. PRIVATE BUSINESSMEN ARE CONFIDENT ABOUT THE FUTURE IN THEIR CONTACTS WITH EMBASSY OFFICIERS, BELIEVING THAT FEWER NOT MORE CONTROLS ARE IN THE OFFING. THEY ARE RELATIVELY RELAXED ABOUT THE ABILITY OF THE PARTY AND THE BUREAUCRACY TO TURN THE CLOCK BACK.

8. PUBLIC VIEWS.

GOVERNMENT IMPOSED PRICE CONTROLS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN INEFFECTIVE IN COPING WITH INFLATION. FOR EXAMPLE, ONE SOURCE, AN ALAWITE BUSINESSMAN TOLD US PRICES OF FOOD ITEMS BROADCAST EACH MORNING BY SYRIAN RADIO OFTEN BEAR LITTLE RELATIONSHIP TO ACTUAL MARKET PRICES CHARGED. AS ONE MERCHANT TOLD HIM WHEN HE ASKED FOR PRODUCE AT OFFICIAL PRICE, "GO BUY YOUR VEGETABLES FROM THE BROADCASTING STATION IF YOU WANT ANYTHING AT THOSE PRICES."

9. THE SARG RESPONSE.

IN THE ABSENCE OF QUICKLY AVAILABLE ECONOMIC RESOURCES TO RESOLVE DIFFICULTIES ECONOMICALLY, AND UNWILLING TO RISK A CLEAR BREAK WITH BAATHI IDEOLOGY IN ORDER TO MAKE MORE EFFICIENT USE OF INDIGENOUS RESOURCES, ASSAD MAY BE FORMULATING A POLITICAL RESPONSE TO BUY TIME FOR ECONOMIC DISCIPLINE TO TAKE EFFECT, FOR LONG-TERM STRENGTHS OF ECONOMY TO ASSERT THEMSELVES, AND FOR REGIME TO LOCATE FURTHER SOURCES OF EXTERNAL FINANCING. ONE PRIMARY ELEMENT OF AL-ASSAD'S POLITICAL STRATEGY WILL

PROBABLY BE FORMATION OF ANEW CABINET. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD
THAT PRESIDENT MET WITH BAATH PARTY COMMAND EVENING JUNE 6
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AND DURING MEETING FORMALLY ACCEPTED KHULAYFAWI'S
RESIGNATION TENDERED PREVIOUSLY. ACCORDING TO SOURCE OF
THIS INFORMATION AL-ASSAD TOOK INITIAL SOUNDING AMONG
BAATHIST COLEAGUES TO DETERMINE KHULAYFAWI'S SUCCESSOR.
DEPSEC GEN AHMAR WAS ASKED ABOUT HEADING PARTY CABINET,
BUT AHMAR REFUSED, SAYING HE DID NOT WANT PARTY SADDLED
WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR CURRENT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. KHADDAM
WAS ALSO APPROACHED, BUT FONMIN REPORTEDLY ANSWERED THAT,
WHILE HE AT THE DISPOSAL OF AL-ASSAD,
HE WOULD PREFER HIS CURRENT POSITION. OTHER NAMES
MENTIONED WERE AF COMMANDER NAJI JAMIL, PEOPLE'S COUNCIL
SPEAKER MUHAMMAD ALI AL-HALABI, AND FORMER PRIMIN MAHMUD
AL-AYYUBI. SPECULATION HAS ALSO CENTERED AROUND EX-
GOVERNOR OF CENTRAL BANK IZZAT TRABULSI AND SYRIAN EXILE
AND KNOWN PRO-SAUDI MAROUF DAWALIBI ?75853 *8,\$ 85 \$8**ICULT
TO IMAGIEN THAT AL-ASSAD WILL BREAK PARTY REGULATIONS --
WHICH STIPULATE THAT PRIMIN MUST BE MEMBER OF PARTY'S
NATIONAL COMMAND -- TO BRING IN DAWALIBI OR
TRABULSI AS MEANS OF ATTRACTING SAUDI FUNDING. MINDEF
TLASS REPORTEDLY WANTS THE JOB BUT IS NOT CONSIDERED A
SERIOUS CANDIDATE. WE ALSO HEAR SPECULATION THAT AL-
ASSAD MAY TAKE OVER PRIME MINSTRY HIMSELF, A MOVE WHICH
COULD DRAMATIZE HIS CONCERN TO IMPROVE INTERNAL SITUATION
BUT WOULD ADD PUNISHING RESPONSIBILITIES TO HIS ALREADY
HEAVY FOREIGN AFFAIRS BURDENS. AT THIS POINT, IT IS APPARENT
THAT FEW SARG POLITICIANS VIEW PRIME MINISTER'S PORTFOLIO
AS POSITION WORTH SEEKING AND THAT AL-ASSAD HAS NOT YET
MADE UP HIS MIND WHO HE WILL TAP FOR THE JOB. WHAT DOES SEEM
CLEAR IS THAT KHULAYFAWI IS BEING HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR
CURRENT GOVERNMENT'S FAILURES IN ECONOMIC FIELD AND IS TO BE
REPLACED, PERHAPS AFTER PEOPLE'S COUNCIL ELECTIONS LATER
THIS SUMMER OR EVEN EARLIER.

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10. REGIME ALSO HAS BEEN MAKING SHOW OF LISTENING TO WORKER'S COMPLAINTS. JUNE 8 PRESS REPORTED THAT EXECUTIVE BUREAU OF HAMA LABOR SYNDICATE MET WITH WORKERS BELONGING TO SYNDICATE AND WITH EMPLOYEES OF HAMA MUNICIPALITY TO DISCUSS LIVING CONDITIONS. SAME DAY PRESS REPORTED CABLE OF SUPPORT FROM EXECUTIVE BUREAU OF PEASANTS UNION FOR RECENT DECREE ESTABLISHING GENERAL COMPANY FOR VEGETABLES AND FRUITS, A MOVE UNDERTAKEN PREVIOUS WEEK IN ATTEMPT TO GAIN GREATER STATE CONTROL OVER DISTRIBUTION AND PRICES OF THESE STAPLES. CABLE NOTED THAT DECISION TAKEN "IN RESPONSE TO ASPIRATIONS OF TOILING PEASANTS AND TO PROTECT THEM AND CONSUMERS FROM EXPLOITATION." IN ADDITION, WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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BP REGIONAL COMMAND IS CURRENTLY STUDYING MEASURES TO DEAL WITH INTERNAL SITUATION AND ENCONOMIC CRISIS.

11. MFA SOURCE HAS TOLD US THAT AL-ASAD IS SENDING MISSION LED BY FONMIN KHADDAM TO ITALY AND FRANCE LATER THIS MONTH TO SEEK INCREASED EUROPEAN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

12. IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S.-SYRIAN TIES.

POLITICAL DECISIONS AL-ASSAD TAKES TO RESPOND HIS DIFFICULTIES AND HIS RELATIVE DEGREE OF SUCCESS IN ALLEVIATING ECONOMIC DISTRESSES WILL PROBABLY HAVE SOME IMPACT ON HIS TIES WITH U.S. AND EUROPE. ACCORDING TO WELL PLACED SOURCE

THE PEOPLE ARE CRITICIZING THE REGIME BUT PARTY
AND ARMY LEADERS ARE CRITICIZING AL-ASSAD'S PRO-WESTERN
POLITICS, AND ASKING WHERE ALS-ASSAD'S WESTERN FRIENDS NOW
THAT HE HAS SHIFTED HIS ECONOMY TOWARD WEST AND HAS RUN
INTO ECONOMIC TROUBLES. AL-ASSAD MAY ENCOUNTER MORE
DIFFICULTY IN JUSTIFYING HIS OPENING TO THE WEST IF HIS
ECONOMIC PROBLEMS CONTINUE. OTHER SOURCES STATE SOME
IN ARMY WELCOME OPENING TO WEST IN ORDER TO GET SAUDI MONE
TO BUY PREFERRED WESTERN EQUIPMENT.

13. CONCLUSION.

DURING PAST YEAR-AND-ONE-HALF, AL-ASSAD REGIME HAS
CONFRONTED THREE TESTS: LEBANON, INTERNAL SECURITY
(PARTICULARLY ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS AGAINST ALWITE
FIGURES), AND NOW THE ECONOMY. THROUGH SKILLFUL
POLITICAL MANEUVERING THE REGIME MANAGED TO CONTAIN, ALTHOUGH
NOT SOLVE, THE FIRST TWO PROBLEMS. LACKING SUFFICIENT
ECONOMIC RESOURCES TO SOLVE ECONOMIC CRISIS, AL-ASSAD NOW
APPEARS TO BE FORMULATING STRATEGY TO CONTAIN ECONOMIC
STRAINS. ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES THREATEN TO ERODE FURTHER
HIS BASE OF SUPPORT BECAUSE ONE ELEMENT OF HIS POPULAR
APPEAL WAS IMPLEMENTATION OF AN ECONOMIC PROGRAM THAT HAS
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DEVIATED INCREASINGLY FROM TRADITIONAL BAATHI-SOCIALIST
DOGMA. AS BENEFITS FROM THIS ECONOMIC PROGRAM
BROUGHT WITH THEM DEVELOPMENTS THE
ECONOMY COULD NOT COPE WITH, PARTICULARLY INFLATION,
MANY SYRIANS BEGAN TO SEE THE CONTINUED MAINTENANCE OF A HIGH
LIVING STANDARD ENJOYED BY SYRIA'S PRIVILEGED CLASS AND
OFTEN MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH CORRUPTION AS BOTH MORE
VISIBLE AND LESS TOLERABLE. THIS THIRD TEST WILL
COMPLICATE AL-ASSAD'S ABILITY TO MAINTAIN
INTERNAL STABILITY AS HE GUIDES SYRIA TOWARD NEW ROUND
OF DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO REGAIN MOMENTUM OF PEACE
PROCESS. IT IS TOO EARLY TO PREDICT A BACKING OFF FROM
HIS PEACE POLICY, THOUGH THAT COULD COME. IT IS LIKELY,
HOWEVER, THAT HE WILL RENEW EFFORTS TO SEEK ECONOMIC RELIEF
FROM US AND EUROPE AS WELL AS OIL PRODUCING STATES.
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